

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

SHAWNCEY BLAKE,
Plaintiff,

v.

CAPTAIN HOYT, et al.,
Defendants.

Case No. 15-cv-01239-HSG (PR)

ORDER OF SERVICE

INTRODUCTION

Plaintiff, an inmate at the Santa Clara County Jail, filed this *pro se* civil rights complaint under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 claiming that he was disciplined in retaliation for pursuing an administrative grievance. The complaint was dismissed with leave to amend, and he filed a timely first amended complaint (“FAC”) which is now before the Court for review pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915A.

DISCUSSION

A. Standard of Review

Federal courts must engage in a preliminary screening of cases in which prisoners seek redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity. 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). The court must identify cognizable claims or dismiss the complaint, or any portion of the complaint, if the complaint “is frivolous, malicious, or fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted,” or “seeks monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief.” *Id.* § 1915A(b). *Pro se* pleadings must be liberally construed, however. *Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep’t*, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1990).

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a)(2) requires only “a short and plain statement of the

claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief.” “Specific facts are not necessary; the statement need only ““give the defendant fair notice of what the . . . claim is and the grounds upon which it rests.”” *Erickson v. Pardus*, 127 S. Ct. 2197, 2200 (2007) (citations omitted). Although in order to state a claim a complaint “does not need detailed factual allegations, . . . a plaintiff’s obligation to provide the grounds of his ‘entitle[ment] to relief’ requires more than labels and conclusions, and a formulaic recitation of the elements of a cause of action will not do. . . . Factual allegations must be enough to raise a right to relief above the speculative level.” *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 127 S. Ct. 1955, 1964-65 (2007) (citations omitted). A complaint must proffer “enough facts to state a claim for relief that is plausible on its face.” *Id.* at 1974.

To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, a plaintiff must allege two essential elements: (1) that a right secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States was violated, and (2) that the alleged violation was committed by a person acting under the color of state law. *West v. Atkins*, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988).

B. Legal Claims

Plaintiff alleges in the FAC that he sent an appeal letter to defendant Division Commander Hoyt in an envelope labeled “confidential legal mail.” On February 24, 2015, defendant Deputy Hogan charged plaintiff with a major rule infraction for disobeying a prior order not to send grievances via confidential legal mail. Plaintiff appealed the infraction, but his appeal was rejected by defendant Division Commander Hoyt and defendant Chief of Corrections John Hirokawa. Plaintiff claims that by punishing him for filing an administrative grievance, or by acquiescing in this punishment, these defendants violated his right to access the courts and retaliated against him for exercising his First Amendment rights. When liberally construed, these claims are cognizable.¹

Plaintiff has not cured the deficiencies that were present in his original complaint with respect to suing the Santa Clara County Department of Corrections, an entity of Santa Clara

¹ Plaintiff also mentions disciplinary infractions he received in June 2014 and January 2015. *See* FAC at 6-7, 13. These incidents are the subject of separate civil actions brought by plaintiff and currently pending in this Court. *See Blake v. Gillote*, C. 14-3727 HSG (PR) and *Blake v. Hoyt*, C. 15-0720 HSG (PR).

County.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the Court orders as follows:

1. The claims against defendant Santa Clara Department of Corrections are DISMISSED. The Clerk shall terminate this entity as a defendant on the court docket.

2. The Clerk of the Court shall issue summons and the United States Marshal shall serve, without prepayment of fees, a copy of the FAC (Docket No. 11), and a copy of this order upon Defendants Captain Hoyt, Chief John Hirokawa, and Deputy Hogan, all in the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department.

The Clerk shall also mail a courtesy copy of the FAC and this order to the Santa Clara County Counsel's Office.

3. In order to expedite the resolution of this case, the Court orders as follows:

a. No later than **91 days** from the date this Order is filed, defendants must file and serve a motion for summary judgment or other dispositive motion. If defendants are of the opinion that this case cannot be resolved by summary judgment, defendants must so inform the Court prior to the date the motion is due. A motion for summary judgment also must be accompanied by a *Rand* notice so that plaintiff will have fair, timely, and adequate notice of what is required of him in order to oppose the motion. *Woods v. Carey*, 684 F.3d 934, 939 (9th Cir. 2012) (notice requirement set out in *Rand v. Rowland*, 154 F.3d 952 (9th Cir. 1998), must be served concurrently with motion for summary judgment). A motion to dismiss for failure to exhaust available administrative remedies similarly must be accompanied by a *Wyatt* notice. *Stratton v. Buck*, 697 F.3d 1004, 1008 (9th Cir. 2012).

b. Plaintiff's opposition to the summary judgment or other dispositive motion must be filed with the Court and served upon defendants no later than **28 days** from the date the motion is filed. Plaintiff must bear in mind the notice and warning regarding summary judgment provided later in this order as he prepares his opposition to any motion for summary judgment. Plaintiff also must bear in mind the notice and warning regarding motions to dismiss for non-exhaustion provided later in this order as he prepares his opposition to any motion to dismiss.

1 c. Defendants **shall** file a reply brief no later than **14 days** after the date the
2 opposition is filed. The motion shall be deemed submitted as of the date the reply brief is due. No
3 hearing will be held on the motion.

4 4. Plaintiff is advised that a motion for summary judgment under Rule 56 of the Federal
5 Rules of Civil Procedure will, if granted, end your case. Rule 56 tells you what you must do in
6 order to oppose a motion for summary judgment. Generally, summary judgment must be granted
7 when there is no genuine issue of material fact – that is, if there is no real dispute about any fact
8 that would affect the result of your case, the party who asked for summary judgment is entitled to
9 judgment as a matter of law, which will end your case. When a party you are suing makes a
10 motion for summary judgment that is properly supported by declarations (or other sworn
11 testimony), you cannot simply rely on what your complaint says. Instead, you must set out
12 specific facts in declarations, depositions, answers to interrogatories, or authenticated documents,
13 as provided in Rule 56(c), that contradict the facts shown in the defendants’ declarations and
14 documents and show that there is a genuine issue of material fact for trial. If you do not submit
15 your own evidence in opposition, summary judgment, if appropriate, may be entered against you.
16 If summary judgment is granted, your case will be dismissed and there will be no trial. *Rand v.*
17 *Rowland*, 154 F.3d 952, 962-63 (9th Cir. 1998) (en banc) (App. A).

18 Plaintiff also is advised that a motion to dismiss for failure to exhaust available
19 administrative remedies under 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(a) will, if granted, end your case, albeit without
20 prejudice. You must “develop a record” and present it in your opposition in order to dispute any
21 “factual record” presented by defendants in their motion to dismiss. *Wyatt v. Terhune*, 315 F.3d
22 1108, 1120 n.14 (9th Cir. 2003).

23 (The *Rand* and *Wyatt* notices above do not excuse defendants’ obligation to serve said
24 notices again concurrently with motions to dismiss for failure to exhaust available administrative
25 remedies and motions for summary judgment. *Woods*, 684 F.3d at 939).

26 5. All communications by plaintiff with the Court must be served on defendants’ counsel
27 by mailing a true copy of the document to defendants’ counsel. The Court may disregard any
28 document which a party files but fails to send a copy of to his opponent. Until a defendants’

counsel has been designated, plaintiff may mail a true copy of the document directly to defendants, but once a defendant is represented by counsel, all documents must be mailed to counsel rather than directly to that defendant.

6. Discovery may be taken in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. No further court order under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 30(a)(2) or Local Rule 16 is required before the parties may conduct discovery.


7. Plaintiff is responsible for prosecuting this case. Plaintiff must promptly keep the Court informed of any change of address and must comply with the Court's orders in a timely fashion. Failure to do so may result in the dismissal of this action for failure to prosecute pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b). Plaintiff must file a notice of change of address in every pending case every time he is moved to a new facility.

8. Any motion for an extension of time must be filed no later than the deadline sought to be extended and must be accompanied by a showing of good cause.

9. Plaintiff is cautioned that he must include the case name and case number for this case on any document he submits to the Court for consideration in this case.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: 10/1/2015


HAYWOOD S. GILLIAM, JR.
United States District Judge